

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action dated August 8, 2003. Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 35-41 have been withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the Applicants. Claims 9-12, 14, 23-26 and 31-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for indication of the allowable subject matter. Claims 1-8, 13, 15-22 and 27-20 stand rejected.

I. Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to add sequence listing identifiers to the amino acid sequence disclosures presented in Figures 2 and 8. A substitute Sequence Listing containing all nucleotide sequence disclosures in the specification in both paper and computer-readable form is submitted concurrently herewith. Applicants verify that the paper and computer-readable form of the Sequence Listing are the same and introduce no new matter.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 9, 23 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 6-8, 11-14, 16, 21-22, 25-26 and 28-30 have been amended to recite claim dependency from these now independent claims which have been indicated to be allowable. Claims 1-3, 5, 15, 17-20, 27 and 35-41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections

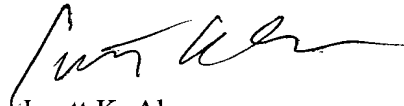
Claims 1-8, 13, 15-22 and 27-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants have canceled the independent claims 1, 15, and 27 and amended claims 4, 6-8, 11-14, 16, 21-22, 25-26 and 28-30 have been amended to recite claim dependency from now independent claims 9, 23 and 31 which have been indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot as the rejections regarding these claims no longer applies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims define patentable subject matter. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

It is not believed that an extension of time and/or additional fee(s)-including fees for net addition of claims-are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted,



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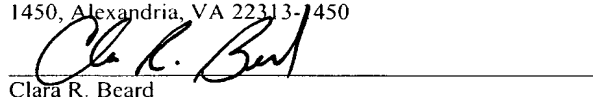
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Clara R. Beard